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SPECIMEN SUPPORTS FOR OBJECTS PHOTOGRAPHED FROM ABOVE

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A stand for photographing objects with the camera in a vertical position was described by F. W. Poos in a previous publication 1/. The supports described in the present paper are constructed in a different manner. The two supports (figs. 1 and 2) were designed for use with a laboratory camera stand, but they can also be used to good advantage with a tripod equipped with tilting top. These supports are more rigid and will accommodate larger specimens than the small built-in specimen support usually found on laboratory stands. The supports can be so placed that they will eliminate shadows on the background which may be cast by the object being photographed.

The two supports are identical in construction, and a description is given for only one support. The overall dimensions of the base (fig. 1, A) of the support, which was made of lumber 1-1/2 inches in thickness, are 11 by 11 inches. The upright (fig. 2, B) is 1-1/2 inches thick, 18 inches high, and 3-1/2 inches wide. Fifteen holes 1/4 inch in diameter and 1 inch apart are bored in the upright, and the holes are numbered to permit even adjustment in height of the two supports. Two wooden guides, each 3/4 inch wide and 1/2 inch thick, were placed in longitudinal slots 5/16 inch deep and 1-1/2 inches apart in the upright.

The cross arm (fig. 1, C) is 1 inch thick, 2 inches wide, and 21 inches long, and is attached to the upright by a bolt. Two grooves are cut in the cross arm to fit over the guides on the upright. A clear plate glass (fig. 2, D) 18 by 28 inches is placed on the two supports. When a ground glass is required in photographing certain subjects it is placed upon the clear glass. In figure 2, the distance between the cross arms of the two supports could be varied between 18 and 28 inches. J. G. Pratt, Photographer, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, suggested that the

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1/ Poos, F. W. A Stand Used In Photographing Objects From Above. Circular ET-16, May 1934.

supports be placed further apart when necessary to accommodate larger specimens and to avoid shadows from side illumination. It is probable that the supports could be placed much further apart by using a longer plate glass.

When this type of specimen support is used to photograph objects at enlarged magnification, the object to be photographed is placed on a small piece of glass and arranged in proper position under a hand lens or a binocular microscope. Two pieces of paper 1-1/2 inches wide and 2 inches long are glued to opposite sides of this small glass to serve as handles, and needles set at right angles through small cork stoppers are used as pointers to show the location of eggs, etc., on leaves. The small piece of glass with object or group of objects in proper position to photograph is then placed on the large plate glass which is in a fixed position on the specimen supports. The object which is being photographed can thus be easily moved about so as to appear in the proper position on the ground glass of the camera by sliding the small glass, on which the subject has been previously placed, in any direction on the large plate glass. It is tedious to arrange a subject to be photographed at enlarged magnification on a supporting glass below a camera, as this glass usually cannot be readily moved in all directions, and it may be necessary to rearrange the position of the subject several times to get it properly centered on the ground glass of the camera.

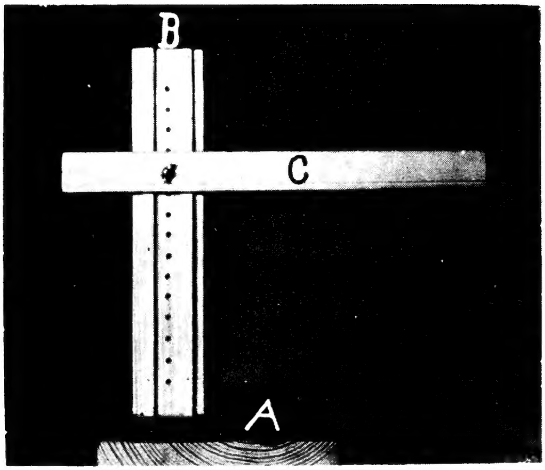

Figure 1.--Specimen support for objects photographed in a vertical position: A, Base; B, upright; C, cross arm.

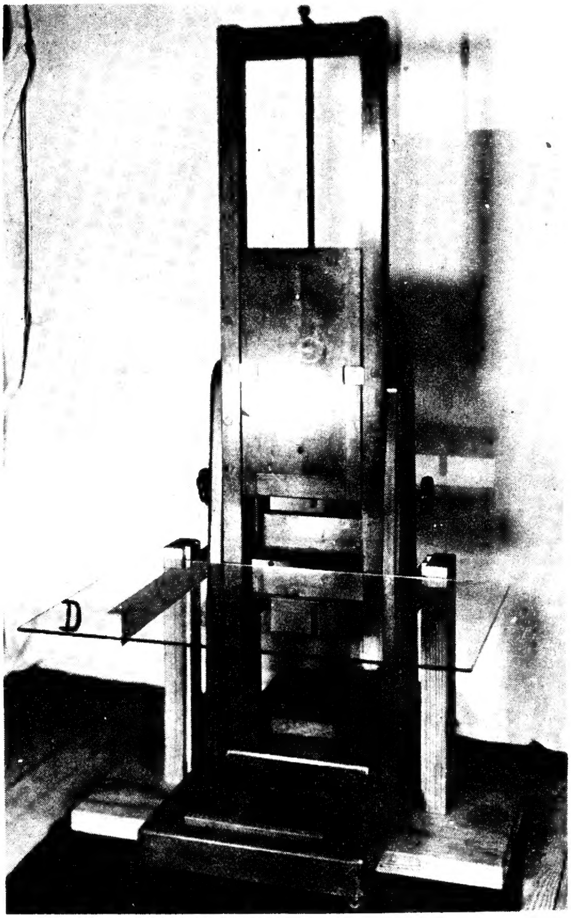

Figure 2.--Specimen supports in position for use with laboratory stand, showing plate glass (D) on which the specimen is placed.